

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03776 301754 Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-14

DODE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /163 W

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R 301746 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0153

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

UNCLAS LONDON 03776

PASS AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EEC, US, UK

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION ON AGRICULTURE WITH BRITISH
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. ON MARCH 29 THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE AND OTHER
EMBASSY OFFICERS MET WITH JAMES SCOTT- HOPKINS, A BRITISH
MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WHOSE SPECIALTY IS
AGRICULTURE. WE ARRANGED THIS MEETING IN ORDER TO MAKE
SURE THAT SCOTT- HOPKINS WAS AWARE OF US ATTITUDES TOWARD
THE COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY, AND TO GET HIS VIEWS ON
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PAGE 02 LONDON 03776 301754 Z

THE LATEST EC COMMISSION PRICE PROPOSALS.

2. SCOTT- HOPKINS SAID THERE WAS LITTLE HOPE THAT THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT WOULD ADOPT POSITIONS THAT SUITED BRITISH OR AMERICAN INTERESTS IN ITS FORTHCOMING DEBATE ON AGRICULTURAL PRICES. THE VIEWS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT, HE SAID, GENERALLY CONFORM TO THE POLICIES OF THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS. THE BRITISH AND ITALIAN MEMBERS ARE PUSHING FOR LOWER PRICES, AND THE GERMANS AND DUTCH FOR HIGHER ONES. ONLY THE BRITISH AND ITALIANS SEEM CONCERNED ABOUT THE INFLATIONARY EFFECTS OF INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRICES. THE OTHER MEMBERS ARGUE THAT HIGHER AGRICULTURAL PRICES ONLY HAVE A MINIMAL EFFECT ON THE OVERALL COST OF LIVING.

3. SCOTT- HOPKINS SAID THAT HE HOPED HE COULD STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE EMBASSY, AND THAT HE WAS SURE HIS COUNTER-SIMILAR OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT AMERICAN POLICIES AND ATTITUDES. ALTHOUGH THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ONLY PLAYS A MARGINAL ROLE IN EC DECISION- MAKING, HE SAID, IT CAN AT LEAST FORCE THE COMMISSION TO RECONSIDER ITS PROPOSALS. IN ADDITION, SCOTT- HOPKINS BELIEVES THAT THE PARLIAMENT' S VIEWS CAN AFFECT PUBLIC OPINION IN THE MEMBER STATES.

ANNENBERG

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*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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TAGS: EAGR, UK, US, EEC
To: BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
EUR
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